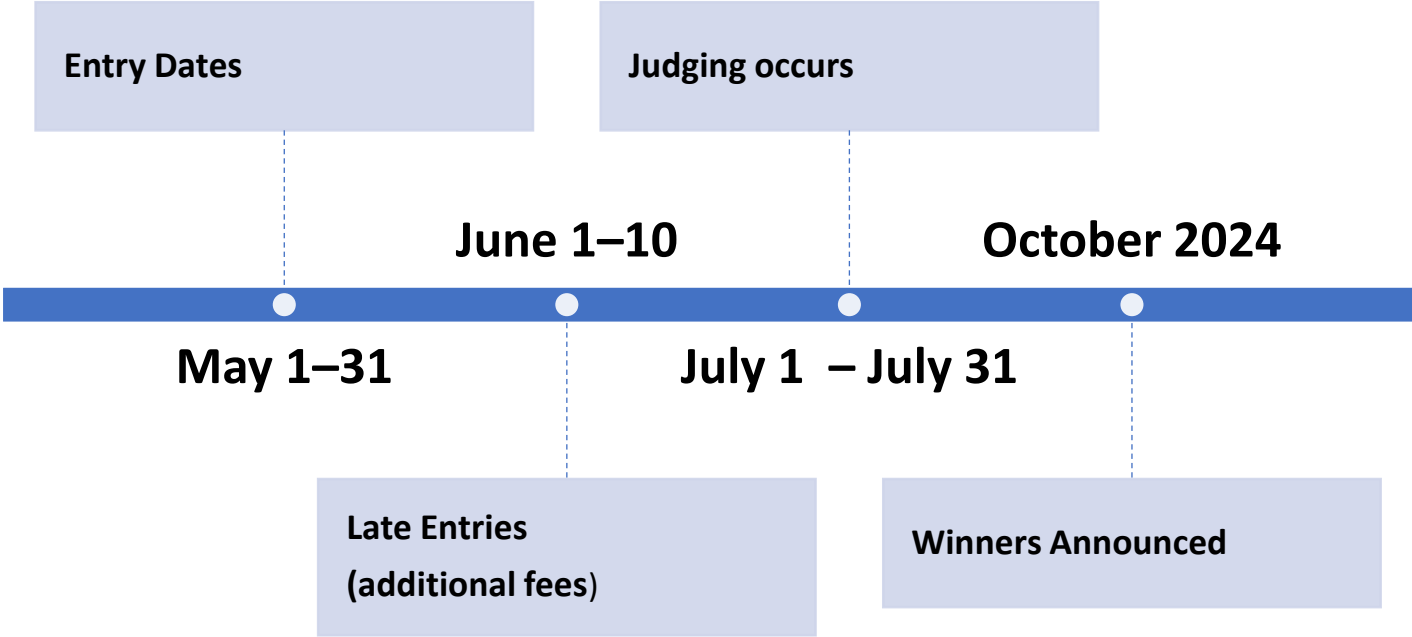


Important Dates



Important Information

Eligible publication dates for contest: May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024.

News organizations may enter up to 5 examples of their best work for each category (per author).

Categories have been streamlined for your convenience.

For General Excellence and News Organization of the Year, there must be entries in the comprehensive categories 1 through 5 AND 27 through 30.

Points awarded:
First Place – 25,
Second Place – 15,
Third Place – 10.

Fees

Newspaper
Comprehensive
Category
\$125 flat fee

Individual Categories
\$10 per entry
Late \$15 per entry received
June 1-10

NEW DIVISIONS

Divisions have been optimized based on past entries, market size, type of publication, and circulation.

Please reach out if you feel your division placement should be evaluated

Division 1

Major Metro &
large reach niche

Division 2

Mid-size Market
& mid reach Niche

Division 3

Small market
& small Niche



Comprehensive News Categories

Members may submit up to 3 examples per category

1. Reporting & News
Writing Excellence

2. Page Design
Excellence

3. Editorial Page
Design Excellence

4. Best Use of
Photography

5. Public
Service/Journalistic
Achievement*

6. Special Section or
Magazine

7. Website

8. Newsletter

9. Podcast

* Letter from the editor or publisher describing the member's role in the community is required. Entries should show how the organization is a part of its community, the effect it has on the community, and the results it generates through good journalism



Individual Categories

Limit 5 examples per category per author

10. Best Coverage of Breaking News^①

11. Best News Story^②

12. Best Sustained Coverage or Series

13. Investigative Reporting

14. Best Sports Story

15. Best Team, Sport, or Sports Beat Coverage^③

16. Best Narrative Work

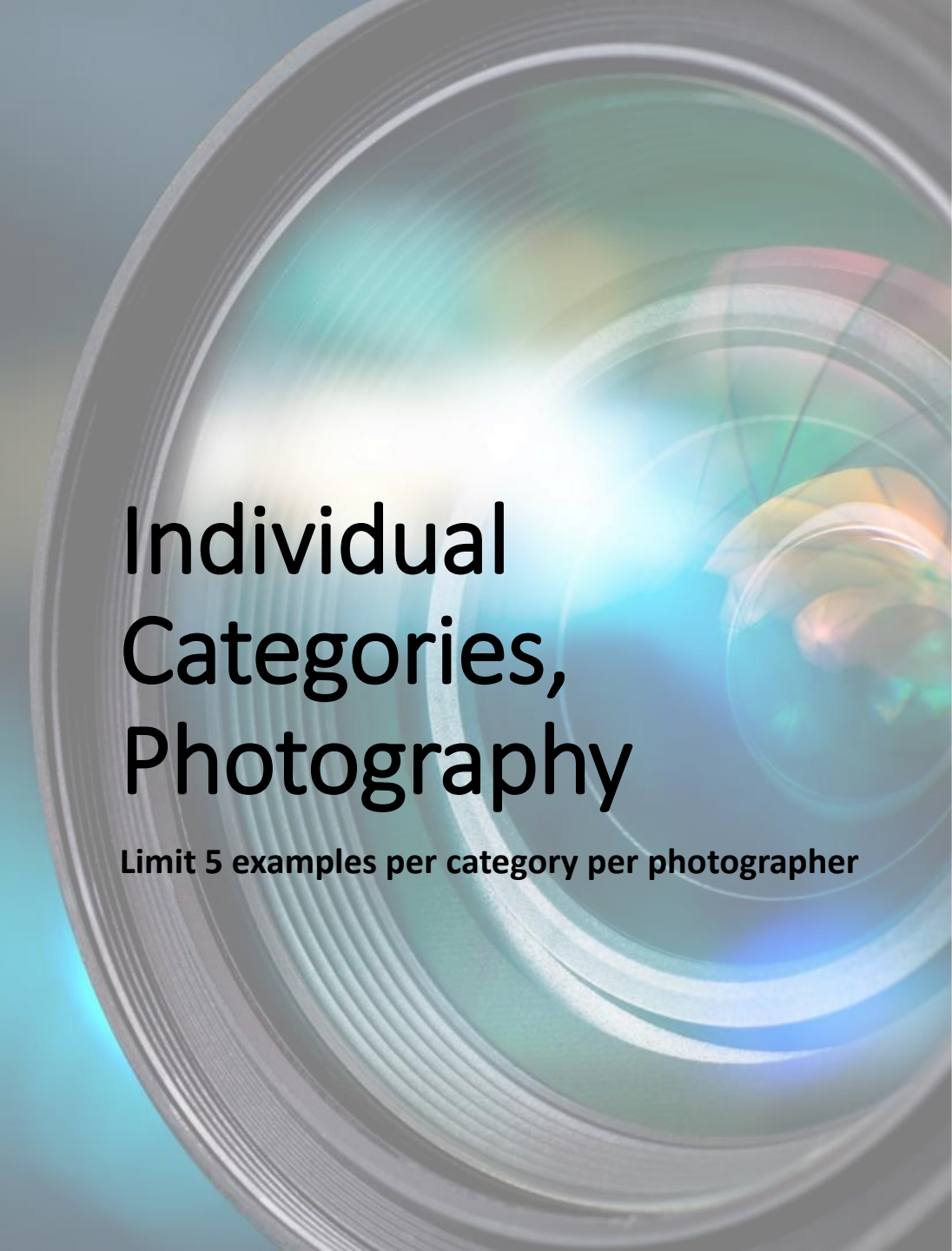
17. Enterprise Reporting^④

18. Best Column or Commentary

19. Best Headline

20. Best Video Reporting by a Print Journalist

- 1) Coverage of a single breaking news event within a 24-hour news cycle.
- 2) Coverage of a single news event, planned and anticipated
- 3) Based on a series or package of up to 5 articles covering a specific school, team or sport
- 4) Demonstrating creative ideas, innovative approach, initiative, and reporting that goes beyond routine that results in change or other impact on the community.



Individual Categories, Photography

Limit 5 examples per category per photographer

21. Best News Photograph

22. Best Sports Photograph

23. Best Feature Photograph

'Best of' Categories

24. Story of the Year

All individual 1st place editorial stories are automatically entered and judged by a panel of judges

25. Photographer of the Year

Nominations only*
+ examples of work

26. Journalist of the Year

Nominations only*
+ examples of work

*Written nominations from the editor or publisher must be submitted with examples of work.

Excellence in Advertising





Comprehensive Advertising Categories

Members may submit up to 3 examples per category

27. Best Advertising Headline

28. Best Advertising Special Section

29. Best Homepage Takeover

30. Best Classified Section

31. Best Newspaper Promotion Ad or Series

32. Best Pro-Bono/Public Service Ad or Series

33. Best Public Notice Promo Ad

34. Best Event



Individual Categories

Limit 3 examples per category per submitter

35. Best Ad
under ½ Page

36. Best Ad ½
Page or larger

37. Best Use
of White
Space

38. Best
Multimedia
Ad Campaign

39. Best
Digital Ad
(static)

40. Best
Digital Ad
(animated)

'Best of' Categories

**41. Account
Executive of the Year**
Nominations only +
examples of work

*Written nominations from the ad director or publisher must be submitted with examples of work.

News Organization of the Year

Based on total points earned
in comprehensive categories.

Must have a minimum 50%
submission in both
comprehensive sections.

ACES CONTEST SYSTEM

>ALL Entries must have an entry record logged in the ACES contest system.

>The ACES contest system can accept entry files up to 100MB.

>Entries larger than 100MB should be uploaded to Google Drive, DropBox, issuu.com, etc., or your own hosting site.

>Please note: the URL must remain active and accessible until October 30, 2024

Use this [CONTEST link](#) during the entry period. After selecting the register tab, create your login and password and follow instructions.

Registration Code = Arizona24

Go to Entries Page, click on "Add new entry"

Select News Organization Name (some info will auto fill). Enter preparers name.

Select contest category from drop down and follow instructions

If prompted, complete explanation of entry

Include a name for the entry (should match any headlines)

Indicate the name of person(s) who should be credited for the award. For comprehensive categories, it should be the publisher or equivalent.

Add files or url links. Don't forget to include username/passwords if its behind a paywall. Files should be in PDF or JPG format

Don't forget to hit the SAVE button

Division 1

Ahwatukee Foothills News	Glendale Independent	Tucson Weekly
Arizona Agenda	Glendale Star, The	West Valley View
Arizona Daily Star	Goodyear/Litchfield Park Independent	
Arizona Daily Sun	Independent News Media	
Arizona Informant	Marana News	
Arizona Republic, The	Mesa Independent	
AZ Big Media	Mesa Tribune	
Chandler Arizonan, The	Peoria Times	
Chandler Independent	Scottsdale Independent	
Explorer Newspaper (Tucson)	Tempe Independent	
Foothills Focus (New River)	Today's News-Herald	
	Tucson Sentinel	

Division 2

Apache Junction/Gold Canyon Independent	Inside Tucson Business	Sun City Independent
Arizona Mirror (Online)	Miner, The (Kingman)	Sun City West Independent
Arizona Capitol Times	Mohave Valley Daily News	Verde Independent, The
Arizona Center for Investigative Journalism	Payson Roundup	White Mountain Independent (Show Low)
AZ Chinese News	Phoenix Business Journal, The	Navajo Times
Chino Valley Review	Prensa Arizona	Maricopa Monitor
Daily Courier, The	Prescott Valley Tribune	Casa Grande Dispatch
Florence Independent	Queen Creek Independent	InMaricopa
Fountain Hills Independent	Sahuarita Sun	
Fountain Hills Times, The	SanTan Sun News	
Green Valley News	Sedona Red Rock News	
Herald/Review	Standard, The (Kingman)	

Division 3

Ajo Copper News	Lookout Publications	Williams-Grand Canyon News
Arizona Business Gazette	Navajo-Hopi Observer	
Arizona Silver Belt	Nogales International	
Camp Verde Bugle, The	Parker Pioneer	
Camp Verde Journal, The	Patagonia Regional Times	
Copper Basin News	Record Reporter, The	
Copper Era, The	San Manuel Miner	
Daily Territorial, The	Superior Sun	
Eastern Arizona Courier (Safford)	Town of Paradise Valley Independent	
Fort Apache Scout	Tribune, The (Holbrook)	
Globe Miami-Times	Varsity Sports Show	
Lake Powell Chronicle	Wickenburg Sun, The	

Rules and FAQs

Eligibility

- Organizations must be in good standing and current on their dues
- Individuals must be employed by a member group or brand OR freelancers must have written approval from the member the submission ran in.

PDF Files

- Only submit the pages that contain entry-related content.
- Make PDF files as small as possible.
- Clearly identify all entries by providing a title or identifying name so the judges can easily find them.

Rules and FAQs

Digital Access

- Members must provide user-name and passwords for any entries behind a paywall. Must stay active through October 2024

Winners

- Members will be notified in September if they have won an award, but not what place.
- Full list of winners and press-release will be available in October following awards announcements - tbd.

Disqualifications

- Failure to follow guidelines.
- Evidence of plagiarism or articles/advertising generated exclusively by AI.
- Member must remain in good standing and current on dues.

Rules and FAQs

Judging

Judges reserve the right to not award in any division or category.

All judging decisions are final.

2024 Judging is done by your peers from the Washington State Press Association.

Arizona news organizations are expected to participate in judging the Washington entries.

Accounts and Passwords

AMA's codes will be emailed to member leadership.

Codes/Passwords are case-sensitive.

Accounts and passwords must be reset every year.

Contact Lisa Simpson (lisa@azmedia.org) or Alex Wakefield (alex@azmedia.org) with question or for assistance.